

Message

From: Jordan, Deborah [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B3DBF2D18EC74D249D23EF5B7791E02B-DJORDAN]
Sent: 12/2/2020 1:31:06 AM
To: Knapp, Kristien [Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Kamala's inner circle

Thanks. This is chock-full of info.

Very interesting.

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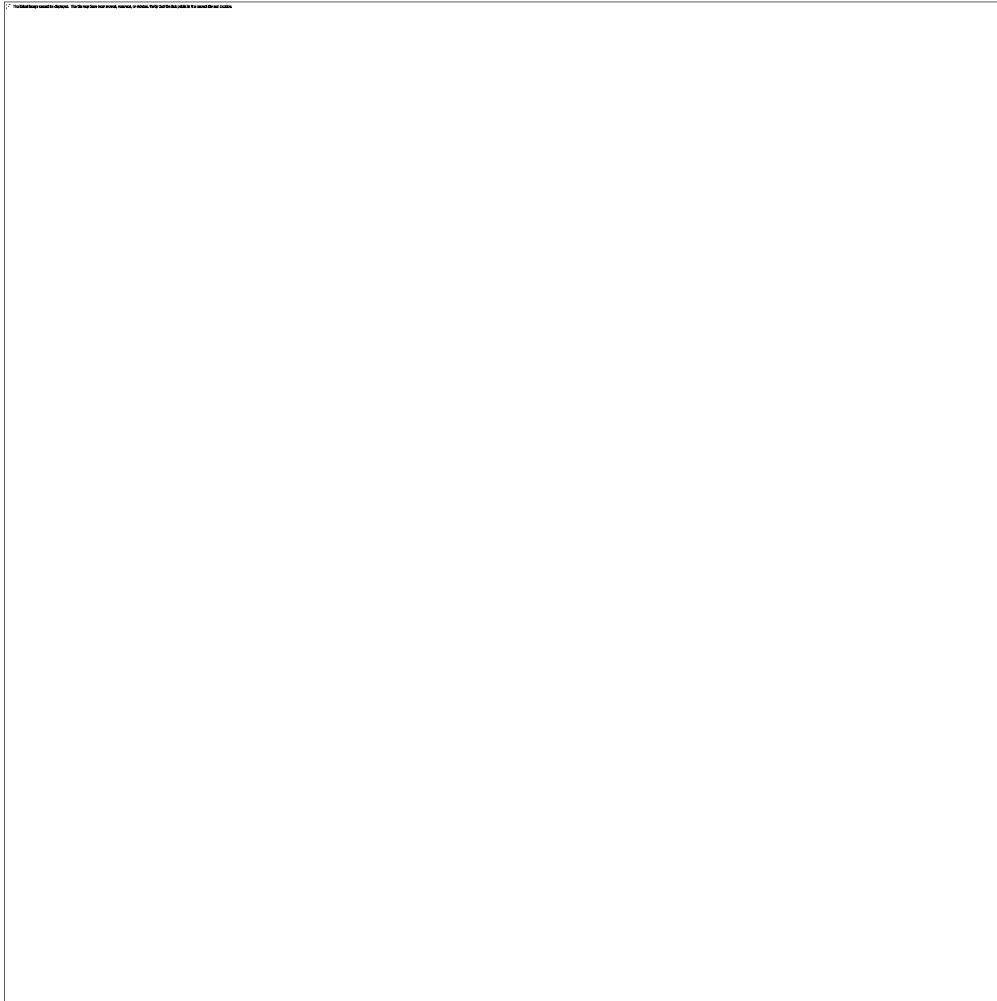
From: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Jordan, Deborah <Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Kamala's inner circle

FYI

From: POLITICO Pro's Transition Playbook <newsletter@email.politicopro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Knapp, Kristien <Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov>
Subject: Kamala's inner circle

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BY ALEX THOMPSON AND THEODORIC MEYER

Presented by Ford Motor Company

Welcome to POLITICO's 2020 Transition Playbook, your guide to one of the most consequential transfers of power in American history.

When **JOE BIDEN** selected **KAMALA HARRIS** as his vice president this summer, he also picked the team that would staff her on the campaign trail.

At the top: party operative **KARINE JEAN-PIERRE** (aka KJP) as her chief of staff. It quickly became clear, however, that Jean-Pierre wasn't a good fit, and she was effectively estranged from Harris's inner circle for the final months of the campaign, five sources with knowledge of the relationship tell Alex, **CHRIS CADELAGO**, **TYLER PAGER**, and **RYAN LIZZA**.

Harris increasingly relied on Biden senior adviser **SYMONE SANDERS**, who began traveling more with Harris and became her de facto chief of staff.

This week, Harris named Sanders as a senior advisor and chief spokesperson in the White House. KJP did not join Harris' staff, becoming Biden's principal deputy press secretary, instead.

She declined to comment, but Biden aide **ANITA DUNN** said that the game of musical chairs was all part of the plan. "When Biden asked her to serve as Chief of Staff to his running mate, prior to the announcement of the selection, it was understood that Karine would return to work for him in the White House," she said in a statement.

Harris' gravitation toward Sanders is part of the vice president-elect's larger desire to bring on people with deep connections to Biden or with the kind of Beltway chops that Biden's inner circle respects. While Harris did not manage down well during her own presidential campaign, she has so far been more effective at managing up in Biden's world.

Besides Sanders, Harris brought on **ASHLEY ETIENNE**, a former aide to House Speaker **NANCY PELOSI**, as her communications director and experienced operative **TINA FLOURNOY** to be her chief of staff, as first reported by **YASHAR ALI**.

Flournoy has a reputation as a no-nonsense taskmaster, something Harris has needed (and lacked) in the past. She also has experience at the highest levels of government and is seen as a guide who will help Harris hit the ground running on Jan. 20. "Tina is going to help her slow the game down," one close ally said.

A transition adviser noted, however, that a handful of aides from the campaign have followed her into the transition and are expected to join the VP office as well.

Harris also stands to benefit from the fact that Biden himself has been second banana in the White House. President **BARACK OBAMA**'s former vice president has been conscientious about making sure his

No. 2 is at the table, including discussions on all of the incoming administration's prospective Cabinet nominees. She has appeared alongside Biden in public discussions on the economy and coronavirus. And they communicate virtually daily by phone and text, according to officials familiar with the dynamic.

One Kamala adviser said she has disagreed with some of Biden's personnel decisions but, "obviously, he gets the final say."

Are you in touch with Biden's transition team? Do you work in an agency preparing (or not preparing) for the transfer of power? Are you NEERA TANDEN? We want to hear from you — and we'll keep you anonymous: transitiontips@politico.com. You can also reach [Alex](#), [Theo](#), [Megan](#), [Alice](#) and [Daniel](#) individually if you prefer. You can also tweet at us, Neera!

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WHERE'S JOE

At the Queen Theatre in Wilmington, Del., where he introduced **JANET YELLEN**, his pick for Treasury secretary; **NEERA TANDEN**, whom he'll nominate as Office of Management and Budget director; **ADEWALE "WALLY" ADEYEMO**, his choice for deputy Treasury secretary; **CECILIA ROUSE**, his pick for Council of Economic Advisers chairwoman; and **JARED BERNSTEIN** and **HEATHER BOUSHEY** to serve on the CEA with Rouse.

WHERE'S KAMALA

With Biden at the Queen.

PRO EXCLUSIVE

ECP PRESIDENT WELCOMES BIDEN ADMIN — European Central Bank President **CHRISTINE LAGARDE** said Tuesday she sees a “major change” ahead of the global financial system with the incoming Biden administration, **KELLIE MEJDRICH** reports. Lagarde, in remarks before the Atlantic Council, welcomed a return to greater international cooperation under Biden.

“If the leading economy in the world is not playing by the same rules as all the others, it is a major issue, and I think that it has been to a certain point, over the last few years,” Lagarde said.

Lagarde, who has expressed concern over Trump’s handling of trade negotiations in the past, said she expects Biden “to have a strong U.S. administration that is supportive of multilateralism.”

She added that the shift under Biden would be a “critical step” toward agreements “that might not be the Washington consensus, that might not be the Beijing consensus either — but we’ll have to include more players than we had back in 1944” — referring to World War II allies that were the original parties to the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944, which established a new global financial monetary system.

LAHOOD VOUCHES FOR RAHM EMANUEL — Former Transportation Secretary **RAY LAHOOD** said he’s encouraging Biden to choose **RAHM EMANUEL** for the job he once held, **TANYA SNYDER** reports. LaHood, an Illinois Republican who served with Emanuel in the Obama administration, said he thinks the former Chicago mayor would be the best pick for the role and added that he’s interested in the job. “I think he feels that one of his big legacies in Chicago is transportation and how he transformed it,” LaHood said.

Meanwhile ... a new website, StopRahm.com, is the latest organizing effort by the left wing to opposing Emanuel for a spot in Biden’s Cabinet.

FIRST IN TRANSITION PLAYBOOK — Many Republican have not acknowledged Biden as president-elect, but one of the party's most prolific oppo groups has begun prepping for a Biden administration.

America Rising tells Alex they have filed 323 FOIAs and counting on Biden, **JANET YELLEN**, **RON KLAIN**, **BRIAN DEESE**, and several other people in the mix for high-ranking positions. The FOIAs have included even more obscure personnel on the transition's agency review teams such as **VERONICA VALDEZ**, who is on the Pentagon's team. A tipster flagged that America Rising last month FOIAed the Port of Seattle, where Valdez works.

"The Biden Accountability Initiative will serve as a bulwark against what Joe Biden himself described as the most progressive administration in our nation's history," America Rising PAC Communications Director **CHRIS MARTIN** told Alex. He added that the initiative will include a new surge of communications staff but declined to go into details. Check out the [Valdez FOIA here](#).

Transition leaders, meanwhile, have reminded staffers to only use their new transition emails which also has the benefit of falling outside public transparency laws. (Transition team emails cannot be FOIA'd).

UNITING THE LEFT AND RIGHT ... IN HOSTILITY: While Biden's other nominees have done little to provoke Republican backlash thus far, his pick for OMB director, veteran Democratic policymaker Neera Tanden, is "radioactive," as Sen. **JOHN CORNYN** (R-Texas) put it, citing her pull-no-punches presence on social media, **BURGESS EVERETT**, **CAITLIN EMMA** and Theo report.

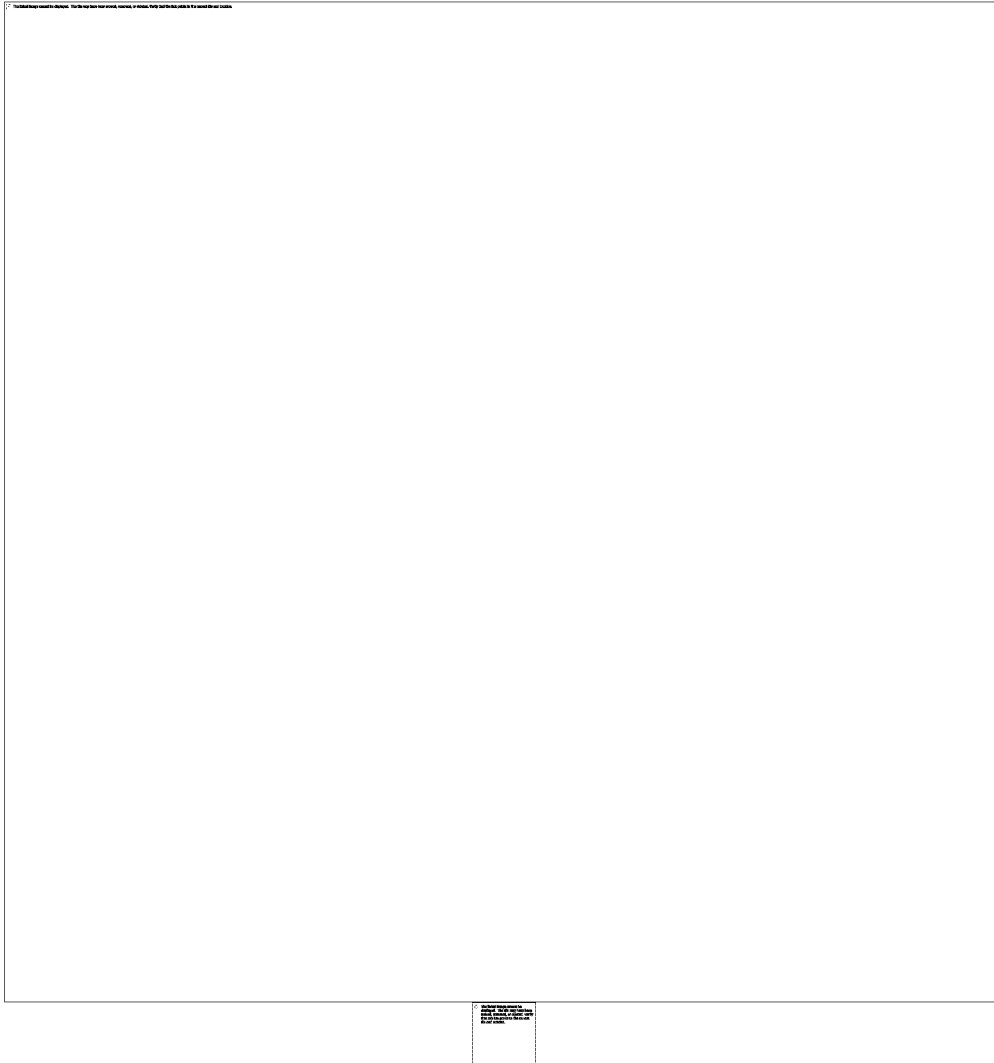
Allies of Sen. **BERNIE SANDERS** (I-Vt.), meanwhile, see Tanden's selection as "a big slap in the face of Bernie people," as one of them told **HOLLY OTTERBEIN**. Some Sanders supporters view Tanden, a former **HILLARY CLINTON** aide, as insufficiently progressive, and Sanders himself has tangled with the think tank she runs.

JOHN PODESTA, whom Tanden succeeded as president of the Center for American Progress, urged senators to look beyond Tanden's often-fiery Twitter feed and focus on her record. "If they give her a fair hearing, I think she will win them over," he said.

WHY BIDEN CHOSE YELLEN — Others drew far more speculation for the Treasury secretary job, particularly **LAEL BRAINARD**, a Federal Reserve board governor. One factor in Biden's choice: Brainard is set to take over the Fed's regulatory portfolio if the Trump appointee who's currently in charge, **RANDAL QUARLES**, leaves when his term ends in October — so keeping her there would be a natural guarantee against Republicans blocking a new vice chair of supervision, **MEGAN CASSELLA** and **BEN WHITE** report. It also leaves Brainard in line to potentially lead the Fed in 2022, when Fed Chairman **JEROME POWELL**'s term ends.

... **AND JEN PSAKI**: Psaki had made very clear she had no plans to join the Biden administration. Tyler and **RYAN LIZZA** have more on how she emerged as Biden's pick for press secretary in recent days.

P.S. — Psaki will actually have two jobs in the new administration, at least at first. In addition to press secretary, she will also continue to oversee the confirmations team, a transition official told Alex.



AGENDA SETTING

McCONNELL STILL HASN'T SPOKEN TO BIDEN — It's unclear whether Biden — whom Psaki said last month would be “working in lockstep” with Senate Minority Leader **CHUCK SCHUMER** and Pelosi — supports the \$908 billion stimulus package unveiled today by a bipartisan group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Pelosi and Schumer made a private offer to Senate Majority Leader **MITCH McCONNELL** on Monday night.

Biden told reporters this afternoon that he hadn't had a chance to review the bipartisan proposal yet, according to a pool report. “I'll take a look at it when I get back,” he said. He also said he hadn't spoken yet

with McConnell, who's pushing a relief bill of his own that's unlikely to win any Democratic support.

TRANSFER OF POWER

POTENTIAL HEADACHE FOR BIDEN: A NEW SPECIAL COUNSEL — Attorney General **WILLIAM BARR** has appointed **JOHN DURHAM**, the U.S. attorney investigating the origins of the FBI's own investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election, as special counsel, **KYLE CHENEY** and **JOSH GERSTEIN** report. The appointment will give Durham latitude to continue the politically explosive investigation after Biden takes office in January.

TRUMP'S LAST GAMBIT: There's one more maneuver Trump could use to fight the election results, **MELANIE ZANONA** and Kyle report. Although the Electoral College casts the official vote for president on Dec. 14, it's up to Congress to certify the results a few weeks later. And federal law gives individual members of the House and Senate the power to challenge the results from the floor — a rarely used mechanism meant to be the last of all last resorts to safeguard an election. Several House Republican lawmakers and aides said they're considering this option to aid Trump's quest. "Nothing is off the table," said Rep. MATT GAETZ (R-Fla.).

MORE INAUGURATION PIC-KS: The Biden team announced four more hires to their inaugural committee (codename PIC). **ADRIENNE ELROD**, Director of Talent and External Relations; **ALANA MOUNCE**, Chief of Staff; **KATIE PETRELIUS**, National Finance Director; **PILI TOBAR**, Communications Director; **CHRISTIAN TOM**, Digital Director.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Ben Crump touts Tony West, Harris' brother-in-law, for attorney general (USA Today)

What Biden's inauguration might look like (The New York Times)

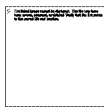
Barr: No evidence of fraud “on a scale that could have affected”
election ([The Associated Press](#))

Biden faces a balancing act in choosing top aides with business ties
([The New York Times](#))

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